international tourism fairs and festivals to attract tourists.

Disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

*414. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Committees/ Commissions appointed by Government to inquire into the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the main conclusions thereof;

(b) whether the Late Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai declared that Government would appoint another Commission of Inquiry as the conclusions of the earlier Commissions are not acceptable to Government; and

(c) whether it is proposed to honour the commitment of the former Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Government had appointed the following two Commissions/ Committees:—

(i) An Inquiry Committee consisting of S/Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose, and S.N. Maitra, was appointed in April, 1956 to ascertain the circumstance relating to Netaji's alleged death in an air crash.

(ii) A Commission of Inquiry was appointed in July, 1970, namely 'Khosla Commission' under the Chairmanship of Retd. Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, Shri G.D. Khosla.

Both the Shah Nawaz Committee/ Khosla Commission came to the conclusion that Netaji died in an air-crash at Taihoku on 18th August, 1945.

(b) and (c) Shri Morarji Desai in a detailed statement in the Lok Sabha on August 28, 1978, had, infact, stated that while reasonable doubts have been cast on the, correctness of the conclusions reached in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed, yet no useful purpose would be served by having any further inquiry.

Redefining NEC

*415. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFARIS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for redefining the North Eastern Council for the region's infrastructure equalisation plan;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, what is the use of continuing the present working of North Eastern Council for bringing up the balanced growth of the region to the national level?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Government have a proposal for restructuring the North Eastern Council.

(b) No time-frame can be given. However, it is proposed to introduce the Bill in Parliament after it is approved by the Cabinet.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Uranium

*416. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether smugglers trying to send Uranium to Pakistan have been caught in June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how ordinary citizens get more than one kilo of Uranium; and

(d) the action proposed to restrict its sale?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Government has no information regarding attempts by smugglers to send Uranium to Pakistan. In an incident, on

14th June, 1998, two packets—one containing about 350 grams of Heroin and the other packet weighing 1.80 Kgs. with inscriptions "UCIL JADUGODA 100%, 235 TARAPUR, India" suspected to be Uranium was found and a person arrested in the district of Burdwan in West Bengal. However, inquiries have revealed that the second packet contained Resin and not Uranium as suspected.

Activities of ISI

*417. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISI of Pakistan has practically encircled India by increasing its activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tarai in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, North-East, Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Coimbatore;

(b) whether local Islamic fundamentalist militants are receiving assistance from ISI in the shape of money, material and guidance; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent these activities since April, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There are reports of Pakistan's ISI's activities in these areas. It also has sinister designs on other parts of the country. However, it may not be correct to say that it has encircled India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to de-stablize India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youth for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing-up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central/State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observation during day & night, increase in number of Nakas (Check Posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movements of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

Central Teams to States

*418. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have sent Central teams to the various States to make enquiry about the law and order situation there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these Committees have submitted their reports; and

(d) if so, what are the actions taken, accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Two Central teams, one to Bihar and the other to West Bengal, were deputed during June' 98. The team to Bihar was deputed to assess the prevailing law and order situation in the State and the steps taken by the State Government to instill confidence in the general public in view of the killings of public representatives. The team to West Bengal was deputed to look into specific cases of crime committed against certain sections of the pupulation during the Panchayat polls and the steps taken by the State Government to instill confidence among the population. The reports of the teams have been received.

Artical 355 of the Constitution of India casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external